

Winter 1992

No.2

FROQ

Free Radio Quarterly

QSL

RADIO MERLIN ^{73s}
INTERNATIONAL



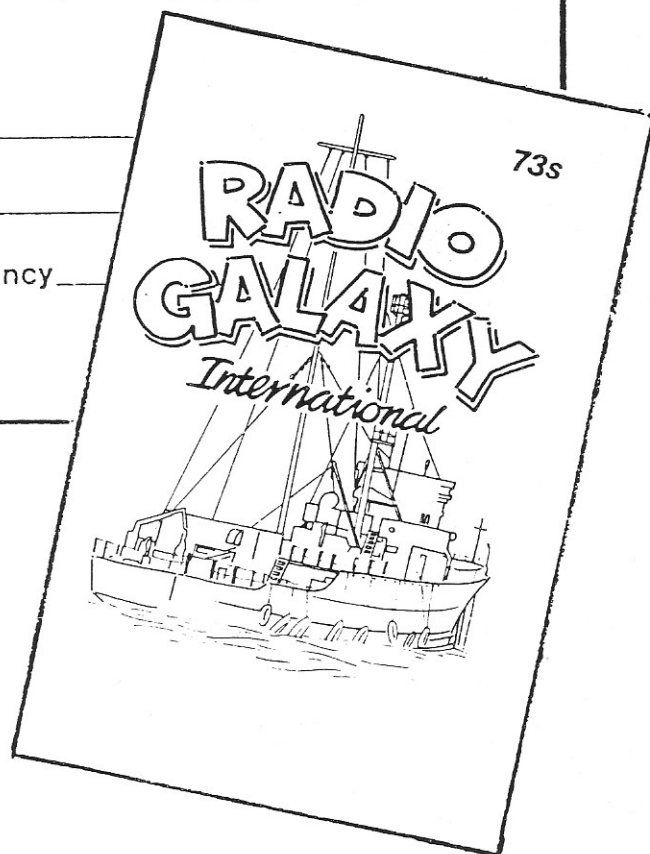
6240 KHZ S-W

Date _____

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Frequency _____

*Merlin in second
raid*



Around FRQ-2

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Welcome

Many thanks for all your letters and comments received after the first issue of FRQ, thankfully they were all complementary. Please keep them coming.

Having made it to issue 2 FRQ has introduced a number of small modifications. The news section has been expanded slightly, this allows not only a broader selection of news, but also some mini features. This issue looking back at the short life of Radio Harmony and the history of retiring short wave pirate Radio Mi Amigo.

In the next issue it will be the Database section which comes under the microscope with a count of which stations have been the most active.

Payment

FRQ is published four times a year in January, April, July and October.

PRICE £1.50 per copy throughout Europe

Rest of the world £2.00

PAYMENT in Sterling made payable to "Wavelength"

Next issue available April 7, 1992, order early to ensure prompt delivery.

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Equipment valued at £6,000 confiscated after new DTI visit

Merlin in second raid

RADIO MERLIN has been raided for the second time in three months, officials from the Department of Trade and Industry arrived at Merlin's Essex studio on Monday December 23 just 17 minutes after the return of live broadcasts, scheduled to start at 09.00. A search warrant was dated December 17. Paul Watt, Merlin's station manager said that equipment valued at £6,000 had been confiscated including 4,500 records, listeners letters, Christmas cards (including those which had nothing to do with the station), turntables, double cassette players a reel to reel tape machine valued at £2,000 and Merlin's new 120 watt transmitter.

On seeing that the DTI were taking the tape machine Watt kicked it impairing the unit. He says the DTI threatened him with a further charge of criminal damage. The 1991 Broadcasting Act gives the DTI the right to confiscate any equipment which they believe to have been used in connection with an unlicensed radio station. Also taken were letters referring to Merlin's previous incarnation as Radio Galaxy.

Although Merlin was not using a link transmitter, Watt said a suitable site could not be found, the station believed the extremely short ground wave hid its location from the authorities. The name change from Galaxy to Merlin having successfully covered its tracks. However problems began in when a local CBer began to relay the station over the air.

Merlin was previously visited by the DTI on October 17, but only received a written warning from the authorities. It had been accused of causing interference to the PA system of a local church. Merlin though claims to have switched off during services. Including time on air as Radio Galaxy it is the fifth occasion Merlin had been raided.

Merlin plans a return to the air, possibly from Ireland. Plans though are on hold until Watt hears from the DTI as to whether a prosecution is pending.

Caroline plans new Astra service

A NUMBER of groups are now embarking on projects to try and return Radio Caroline to the air. Caroline Satellite Broadcasting has responded to listener appeals to get Caroline back on Astra, and has been working on plans since last November. The new service will operate as a 24 hour service with an AOR format. The project is backed by some of the major Caroline investors in recent years. The team are aiming for an on-air date of March 1, but hope to be broadcasting by the Easter weekend as there are big plans for Caroline's 28th birthday. Caroline management under Peter Moore is against the idea as was made clear at a fruitless discussion on board the Caroline Movement vessel Galaxy, January 11.

The CM has been planning a major event for sometime, and now plans to link in with the satellite venture if it succeeds. The CM intend to operate a restricted service as part of the plan which would be simulcast by satellite.

Chris England's terrestrial licence application is awaiting the Radio Authority to

advertise a new London contract, but England's company, previously known as Radio Caroline (UK) Ltd has agreed to pool resources with the satellite group.

A major American short wave station has now offered airtime. The transmitters offer a clear signal to Europe comparable with the Ross Revenge's transmissions on 6215.

The Ross Revenge Support Group is trying to secure the Ross Revenge, but it believed the group has funds of only £5,000 available. Another source believes one member may be able to raise a further £10,000 but this is likely to make little difference.

Time on Radio Nordzee, the Scandinavian satellite station has been bought by RRSg and programmes are being recorded at Moore's Highgate studio. Unfortunately the audio quality is poor and the satellite service itself is aimed only at cable operators. Reception in central Europe is extremely difficult on anything less than a 1.5 metre dish. The service, only operational for a few hours nightly, is run at a loss and it is believed it is being sustained by one of the

premium phone lines run by Moore.

The original idea was to have the tapes delivered to Radio Fax, which was to have carried programme tapes last Summer, however legal advice taken at the time found the project could not be commercially viable.

The Ross Revenge is still moored at the Granville Dock, Dover and is currently crewed by Steve Conway, Wendy Shepherd and Ricky James.

The salvage price for the Ross was originally fixed at £40,000, but later reduced to £35,000 after a few raised eyebrows. Added to the bill are the price of diesel, water and the berthing fee believed to be in the region of £280 per week. The ship's owner is the Grotham Steam Ship Company, but the mortgage on the vessel is held by the Swiss firm MRK who hold little interest in the vessel.

Iain Johnston

Yule logs line up

IN A tradition which is becoming almost as regular as turkey and mince pies Radio East Coast Commercial, Weekend Music Radio and Britain Radio brought the total number of yule logs to almost 170. East Coast Commercial had coverage of the famous Hunstanton Christmas swim, even though the original reporter had spent Christmas morning in bed. WMR was planning to broadcast on 6, 7 and 15MHz, however the plan had to be curtailed when the 15MHz transmitter was found to be causing interference to local televisions. The switch to 1611KHz was compensated however when a report for the broadcast was received from Bath. In addition to catching up on the mail station manager Jack Russell made Christmas complete by taking phone calls on air.

Radio Confusion was noted using 6400 KHz, a frequency now regularly occupied by WNKR. The change of frequency provided only moderate results. The broadcast also featured a short history of the station which was repeated the following Sunday. Confusion has announced that it has now made its last 48 metre band broadcast for the time being and will be switching to 41 metres.

Christmas morning was spoilt by the presence of Xmas Radio on 7590, a Dutch station also heard in 1990 which chose to use an excessive amount of bad language in its broadcast.

Britain Radio was on the air Boxing Day, not though with its regular party show. Instead Roger Davis and Jayne presented the Listeners' Top 40, compiled from contributions to the Top Tracks programme earlier in the year. BRI also made an unscheduled broadcast on Christmas Day.

WNKR reorganise

WNKR HAS announced a new line-up following its 'merger' with WFRL and Radio Mi Amigo. The weekly broadcaster has extended its schedule to four hours running from 10.00 until 14.00. Broadcasts now take place on 6400KHz following a number of weeks of dual transmissions. The 6400 frequency is still being monitored as there is concern that another (legal) station may be operating on the channel. It is however generally accepted that 6400 provides better reception over 6275.

The decision to close WFRL in April follows the increasing work being done for WNKR by WFRL station manager Andy Walker. Contrary to belief in some circles the WNKR station manager is Dave Martin, Walker presents the *Free Radio Show* and also assists with station operations. Terry Philips has also decided to cease regular broadcasts for Radio Mi Amigo, which has switched to irregular night-time transmissions. Philips will present a twice-monthly oldies programme.

The schedule features a regular media magazine programme the *International DX Report* with Adrian Cooke.

Tros go it alone

TROS, ONE of the public broadcasters in the Netherlands is to become a commercial broadcaster. It will put it in direct competition with RTL-4, which broadcasts via Luxembourg on the Astra satellite. Tros has asked the minister of culture to give it a medium wave frequency, which is being investigated. Tros will become the first public broadcaster to leave the system. It had previously been in talks with Veronica with a view to setting up a joint venture, but no progress had been made. Tros started life 28 years ago as RTV Noordzee from the Rem Island situated in the North Sea off the coast of Noordwijk.

End of WFRL

THE PROPOSED closure of WFRL this Easter marks the end of a successful six year reign. Started by Andy Walker as a means to informing a wider audience about happenings in offshore radio WFRL quickly established itself as a focal point for free radio news. Unlike Radio Apollo, the major success of the early eighties WFRL chose to have a definite end rather than to fade away into the ether.

The initial second Sunday schedule included *Tender Trip* which had been brought across from the former medium wave pirate South East Sounds. Its presenter Iain Johnston gave a detailed, if sometimes long winded, overview of developments on Caroline and Laser Hot Hits. The other mainstay of the station Andy Walker developed from a basic music formula to the hard hitting and opinionated style which became his trademark. Though bordering on the arrogant Walker's desire to tell the truth upset some, but widened the knowledge of others. This crusading style has transferred with Walker to WNKR, the other south-east pirate for who he now presents the weekly *Free Radio Show*. The need for WFRL is passing, the last remnant of offshore radio now moored in Dover harbour. Many believed that it was Walker who also ran WNKR, that is incorrect the credit lies with Dave Martin, but listeners will no doubt tune to that station to hear Walker's brash commentary on free radio again.

New MW pirate in the capital

A NEW London station has created a mini medium wave revival. The Edge was first noted in mid December with continuous rock on 819KHz. An excellent signal can be heard across London. A fortnight ago the station lost its first rig, it is believed The Edge fell victim to a lightning raid from the DTI. It soon returned and was logged across the holiday leaving the air on January 4.

Behind the station are former RFM DJs Dave Fuller and Claire Mansfield. The ten watt transmissions are being made from a number of sites in north-east London.

Newslines

Radio Tower has recently made a number of tests from The Netherlands to North America on 15050. The results however have been poor with no letters arriving so far. Calls to the United States and Canada have revealed that conditions in the area are currently very poor. Tower will be testing again later in January.

A new American station was logged over the Christmas holiday period. Kranker Radio, relayed from Eire by Jolly Roger Radio operated an oldies format and announced an address in Pennsylvania the programme was first heard on December 27, repeated the following Sunday. On both occasions 6230 was used. The transmission continues the policy of only relaying stations who have their own transmission facilities.

MERSEYSIDE: North Coast Radio has suffered two recent raids, losing its studio and transmitting equipment on both occasions. North Coast, which has been on-air most weekends for the past two and a half years, was first raided on October 11. It returned on Friday October 25 with an all day broadcast only to be raided again on the afternoon of October 28.

IRELAND: Radio North, an unlicensed station in County Monaghan is suffering after a recent raid by the department of communications. Although North continues to broadcast on 846KHz it has been suffering from poor modulation, poor programming and a general lack of equipment. Also in County Monahan North Atlantic Radio, it too has had technical problems, but is otherwise broadcasting successfully.

The sports and rock service of Eclipse FM on Sky Sports sub carriers has closed after just three months on the air. The station failed to make any noticeable impression on advertisers and the owners took advantage of the end of the three month satellite lease. German broadcaster SWF3 which initially took a sub-carrier on the RTL Plus channel has now moved to Eins Plus, Transponder 19.

Sub-carriers on MTV, located at 7.74 and 7.92 MHz have been transmitting continuous tones possibly in preparation for a new satellite radio service. MTV already plays host to Power FM, the Dutch hit music station owned by the Radio Tien group.

Additional reporting Iain Johnston, Jos Leijgraaf and James Welsh

Harmony goes out of tune

IT IS doubtful if Radio Harmony will be missed by many. Lest for a few older listeners who enjoyed the mix of easy listening music played during the short-lived transmissions. When Radio Caroline ceased regular broadcasting in 1990, Eugene Barnard, the American agent for the Viewpoint religious programmes approached Ray Anderson, owner of East Anglian Productions. Was there, asked Barnard any way the programmes could continue? It was agreed that all possible methods would be explored.

When Radio Fax returned at Easter 1991 it became clear that through loopholes in the Irish Broadcasting Act a regular service could be operated without hindrance from the authorities. The result was that Anderson and associates including Paul Graham, the former Caroline presenter contacted Radio Zenith in Ireland which was prepared to supply the transmission facilities.

It was agreed that John England, the American free radio campaigner would act as a front man for the organisation. It was England's Venus address which was used when the test transmissions began on September 6. But as the transmissions began Barnard was already securing a separate deal with Radio Fax.

Anderson continued with the project, spending a total of £900 on paying the transmission facilities, a fraction of what had been agreed. Nothing extra could be afforded; hourly rates for programme blocks

which slid from £200 still failed to attract any support despite approaches to such well known religious broadcasters as Roy Masters and Johann Maasbach, the Dutch evangelist.

England then withdrew his support and a rift developed between the American and British ends of the project. Long phone calls were made and lengthy faxes sent. The address was switched to a Post Office box in Frinton-On-Sea. Still there was no response leaving Anderson no other choice than to close the project down.

The role of the authorities in this seems to have been one of "wait and see". Why bother to close it down when there was little chance of it succeeding. Despite the general lack of co-operation between the British and Irish authorities the two sides would have sought a way to remove the station if it became clear the someone had found a way to make money out of unlicensed radio. A similar plan would have gone into action if the proposed Radio Caroline/Fax arrangement had gone ahead. Radio Stella should think itself lucky it didn't become caught in the crossfire. Though lessons have been learned it would be unlikely if Harmony is the last station to use Ireland as a base.

Fax are now broadcasting religious programmes on Sunday transmitters under the reflections banner. Meanwhile other plans are developing meaning the powerful Harmony transmitter is also not expected to stay silent for long.

Mi Amigo sails on

THE ROOTS of short wave station Mi Amigo, which ceased regular broadcasts in December, lie on the FM band. It started one night in 1989 when Andy Walker received a message from Terry Philips telling him to listen on 104.2.

A site near Crystal Palace, was earmarked for the first broad-cast, with the 15 watt rig in position Walker and Philips hit the road. Three miles later the signal was still strong. It stayed with them right down into Bexley through the Blackwall Tunnel and across the east end.

The launch was planned for December 9, but when the duo were at the tower block

they heard a voice from someone in the flats below. While Walker made good his escape with half a dozen residents convinced he was a burglar in hot pursuit, Philips spent half an hour hiding in a lift. He wasn't as concerned about the rig as he was the £140 worth of Sony 7600 receiver which he had in the bag with him.

Walker collected his van and drove back to the flats, to find both residents and police. When Philips finally decided to go through the trap door at the top of the flats he found more residents and headed at top speed for the same seven foot fence Walker had clattered over half an hour earlier.

Trouble free weeks followed, but an eight-week closure was planned during the summer, the reason d'être being the presence of football on oldies station Capital Gold. But soon after Mi Amigo returned a black music station sat on the 104.2 frequency, not wanting to go through the fight needed to wrest the frequency from the pretenders to 104.2 Mi Amigo decided to call it a day.

In March 1991 Philips decided to do it all over again, but this time on short wave.

The new team Terry Philips, Dave the Rave and Adrian Cooke initially began a Saturday service on 41 metres, but lack of response hastened a move to Sunday and 6400KHz.

Daytime transmissions received regular reports from the UK, Holland, France, Belgium and Germany. The prize must be a report from Montevideo, Uruguay, some 7200 miles away, for a daytime broadcast at 12.00, quite an achievement when the transmitter was only running 22 watts at the time.

Britain Radio All Time Top 40

- 1 HAWKWIND Silver machine (1972)
- 2 LED ZEPPELIN Stairway to heaven (1971)
- 3 FREE All right now (1970)
- 4 DEEP PURPLE Smoke on the water (1973)
- 5 JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE All along the watchtower (1968)
- 6 BILL HALEY AND HIS COMETS Rock around the clock (1955)
- 7 QUEEN Bohemian Rhapsody (1975)
- 8 DEXY'S MIDNIGHT RUNNERS Come on Eileen (1982)
- 9 MAMAS AND THE PAPAS Monday Monday (1966)
- 10 IKE AND TINA TURNER River deep mountain high (1966)
- 11 EASYBEATS Friday on my mind (1966)
- 12 DEL SHANNON Hats off to Larry (1961)
- 13 10cc Rubber bullets (1973)
- 14 MONKEES Daydream believer (1967)
- 15 BUDDY HOLLY Rave on (1958)
- 16 ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA Mr blue sky (1968)
- 17 LOVIN' SPOONFUL Summer in the city (1966)
- 18 SUPREMES Love child (1968)
- 19 HERMAN'S HERMITS Mrs Brown you've got a lovely daughter (1965)
- 20 BYRDS So you want to be a rock and roll star (1967)
- 21 DAVID McWILLIAMS Days of Pearly Spencer (1968)
- 22 SPENCER DAVIS GROUP Keep on running (1965)
- 23 BOOMTOWN RATS I don't like Mondays (1979)
- 24 ANIMALS House of the rising sun (1964)
- 25 DRIFTERS Saturday night at the movies (1965)
- 26 JOSE FELICANO Light my fire (1968)
- 27 EDDIE COCHRAN C'mon everybody (1959)
- 28 JOE COCKER AND JENNIFER WARNES Up where we belong (1983)
- 29 THE DOORS Light my fire (1967)
- 30 IKE AND TINA TURNER Nutbush city limits (1973)
- 31 GARY PUCKETT AND THE UNION GAP Lady Willpower (1968)
- 32 SUPREMES Stop in the name of love (1965)
- 33 GERRY AND THE PACEMAKERS Ferry across the Mersey (1964)
- 34 ROLLING STONES I wanna be your man (1963)
- 35 BUZZCOCKS Ever fallen in love (1978)
- 36 RIDERS ON THE STORM The Doors (1971)
- 37 KATE BUSH Them heavy people (1979)
- 38 KEITH WEST Excerpt from a teenage opera (1967)
- 39 BOB MARLEY AND THE WAILERS Buffalo soldier (1983)
- 40 RAM JAM Black Betty (1977)

Compiled from listeners' top tens sent to the Top Tracks programme 1990-1.

The last post

The volume of mail received by short wave stations has declined in recent years. Steve Midnight investigates

When the short wave scene took off in the mid-1970s the stations on the air at the time received a great response to their broadcasts. I have heard stories such as the postman turning up at an operator's house with a box, as opposed to the present large envelope, full of letters. Radio Pamela's Steve Most once told me that on one occasion a relay by a Dutch station resulted in a response of over 200 letters. European Music Radio, one of short wave's legends, once threatened to cease broadcasting and had 150 letters in response. The recently returned, and gone like the proverbial ship in the night, Radio Freedom had an average 50 letters per broadcast in its early days during the 1970s. Many broadcasting at the time were getting a response which most stations today can only dream about.

In more recent times it seems that most stations average a response in single figures, when in the more distant past it was usually in dozens. I have never had 20 letters for a single broadcast, let alone over a hundred. Indeed the most I have ever received for one broadcast is 10 or 11.

So why has there been this reversal of fortune in response? I could write at great length on theories such as the demise of a real free radio feel to most of today's FM pirates, resulting in less people being directed to short wave. Or the great short wave conditions which are said to have existed in the late 1970s and early 80s. Both of these may have a lot to do with the current situation, but if you look further into the story you realise there are still a lot of listeners out there, but it seems to get a great response a high power rig, or some other means of delivering a thumping signal is essential. For Example, Radio Reflex, the new Dutch station, accrued 100 letters after just a few broadcasts. The difference is this station's use of over 300 watts. Live Wire Radio(80-100 watts) has had about 300 letters since opening in June 1990. By contrast a low power station, such as

Radio Confusion(15-20 watts) has had 175 letters despite being on the air since March 1989.

So although there are less people listening, extra power will perhaps entice more to tune in. The recent advent of stations like Radio Fax will help the short wave stations to gain a greater audience. There must be many DXers who have in the past scanned 48 metres at sometime in the week, but heard nothing. The more stations which are active, the more chance there is of unexpectedly finding a short wave pirate. A similar situation to the Dutch medium wave scene where the band is almost active 24 hours a day.

Despite *Short Wave Magazine's* ill-informed start in its *Off the Record* free radio column more people will become aware of the short wave free radio scene, and thus more letters will be forthcoming. It is important to remember that there are more people who don't write in for a broadcast for every person who does. Legal stations have a formula, though despite what has been said here the odds are that more people than the average write to a free station. So when was the last time you heard a station and chose not to write. Probably last weekend.FRQ

Steve Midnight is station manager at Radio Confusion.

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When Irish ears are listening

Steve West's report on the effects of the Irish Broadcasting Act continued and concluded

It must be said that our trip to Ireland was not just going to be spent looking at the new stations. We were also hoping to meet up with some friends we had made from previous visits and perhaps find out how things had gone for them in the shake-up of Irish radio.

We had dropped in on Westside Radio's Prince Terry, who is still active on short wave. We also paid a visit to another short wave operator, Joe Vincent at Jolly Roger Radio. We spent an interesting day at his site altering the antenna system: the transmitting aerial is a standard dipole supported between a mast and a convenient telephone pole at about 15 feet. After some experimenting with another dipole (without much success) and a different position for the aerial, we re-strung the existing aerial back onto the telephone pole, but about five feet higher. At the same time, we checked over and tuned up the transmitters, which now give out around 30 and 120 watts respectively, and trimmed the aerial to match better. As you may have noticed the signal has improved from that station.

Continuing with the tour: following our departure from Dublin we headed north for Drogheda, former home of Boyneside Radio. We dropped by the old studios, which were closed, although we could still see cassettes in the rack through the studio window and the aerials were still in place on the adjacent Donahey's Mill chimney.

LMFM, the station which got the franchise for the area, is located in the Boyne shopping centre about 300 yards from the old studios and employs many of the former Boyneside staff. As we arrived we heard a familiar voice on the radio: Heady Eddie formerly with Boyneside Radio and the operator of the former short wave Radio Rainbow.

Having looked around the studios, and taken the obligatory photos, we got chatting to Eddie about the "old days". He thought things were better now, but missed the easy going ways of the old stations: no

hassle with licence and PRS fees, taxes etc. Not that he has given up his old ways entirely. We were given directions to the LMFM transmitter site, which was co-sited with the local pirate UHF relay west of Drogheda. Before we left Eddie told us what had happened when Boyneside closed down at Christmas 1988. The staff had left the studios for a local bar and on returning found that all the locks had been changed by the station owner. Eventually he was persuaded to let them in to get their bags and the site was locked up again. It is said that the studios are still as they were left that day, with the final record still on the turntable.

Heading west from Drogheda we eventually got to the site, a hilltop with a number of PMR masts, another with a number of Band II aerials, thought to be one of the old Boyneside masts, and a very large lattice tower with about ten folded dipoles as well as a selection of other aerials, OB link, studio link etc. Four of the aerials were each on two sides of the mast and the remaining two 'adjusted' by Eddie to give better coverage into the Midlands. At the base of the mast was an array of high gain UHF TV aerials, which were used to pick up pictures off air from Northern Ireland and rebroadcast them from the top of the mast.

Photos taken we left the site and headed west for Trim, home of long wave giant Atlantic 252. Here the studios are located in a former doctor's surgery, a large two-storey house on the south side of the village. The station's massive 900 foot mast was visible about eight miles away towards Dublin.

Considering the way the station puts itself across I had expected the studios to be a little more flash and it to have something in the way of security, but it was not to be. We pulled into the car park (empty) and walked through the front door (unlocked) into the hall. There did not seem to be anybody about, it was Saturday, but a few shouts soon produced somebody from the first floor studios and

we were shown upstairs where Tony West was presenting his afternoon show.

The studios at Atlantic were very similar to all the others we had seen, with one exception: all music is on CD or cartridge, not a piece of vinyl in sight. The DJ always outros from each (short) link with the station name, which can get on your wits if you listen for more than 15 minutes. West explained that this idea of this presentation and the high repetition rate of certain records was to appeal to their target audience (9-17 year olds) who wanted all music with little or no talk. He also explained that the choice of music on the station was mainly decided by the management, with the DJs only having a small input. One reason why the *Solid Gold Sunday* was dropped was because it was attracting too old an audience.

After collecting a load of stickers and pens from the receptionist, we left the studios and headed for the Summerhills, the station's transmission site. As we approached, various signs were noticed nailed to telegraph poles protesting against Radio Tara, the projects original name. Local residents have been trying to get the mast removed due to interference and health problems. Already we had been told that Atlantic could be heard on telephones as far away as Dublin. Indeed Heady Eddie had told us that following some micky taking by a DJ on Atlantic he phoned in a 'request' to the station and said that he was listening to the show on his telephone. We also found that 252 was also giving good signals on its second and third harmonic. The second was audible for at least 30 miles, a problem which we suspect is caused by the combing unit on the station's two 250 kilowatt transmitters which are supposedly fed in parallel, although I do understand that full power cannot be run into the unit. What can be seen of the site is impressive. The whole area is surrounded by a security fence and well guarded.

From Summerhills to Mullingar, former location of Radios West and Midway, where we stayed overnight. The former West studios still have the logo visible on the building, while the Midway studios in a portacabin at a filling station have vanished.

On Sunday morning, we drove to Tullamore where Radio 3 is sited in the shopping centre. After jumping up and down in

front of the closed circuit TV camera at the entrance we were eventually let in by the DJ, the only person on the station. When I asked about the station name—Radio West had been calling themselves Radio 3 towards the end of 1988—we found that the former owner of West Sean Coine was a director of the new Radio 3, but did not take any part in the day-to-day running of the station.

We carried on west to Galway, where we had our first disappointment of the trip at Galway Bay FM, whose receptionist didn't realise anoraks are renowned the whole world over for wanting to see perfectly ordinary radio studios and collect hoards of stickers.

Having driven around Galway city to see what remained of the former pirates we headed south to Ennis and Clare FM. Here things were completely different and quantities of stickers, key rings and even T-shirts were thrust upon us as we were shown around the studios. By now the weather had broken and we continued our drive south to Limerick in the rain trying in vain to find any radio stations.

The next day, Monday, we finally found Radio Limerick: only half a mile from where we had spent the night. Dropping into the station we met one of the former staff from The Sound Channel, one of the old Limerick stations. Derek showed us round, explaining that next year they would be remodelling the studios and going over to CD only. He also agreed things were better in the old days but felt that unless the way stations were funding was changed, he expected to see stations merging into half a dozen regional operations. It seems that LMFM was just about breaking even, but the majority of stations were making losses with the exception of stations in Waterford and Mayo.

The next station to suffer an anoraking was Radio Kerry at Tralee. Due to its location Kerry has four FM transmitters located in the mountains around the county, which add to the overheads, although due to the remoteness of the region, this station does have a higher percentage of listeners than others.

Driving past Mallow, we noticed a lattice mast with NCCR written on it, and remembering that North Cork Community Radio had been located here, dropped in on its old studios at the majestic ballroom. From the outside little seemed to have changed,

but we saw the station was now called County Radio. On enquiring within we were told the franchisees in Cork County had joined together and formed a county-wide station, though it did operate a local opt-out from the main station located at the old ERI studios just north of Cork. The Mallow studios had been improved, like so many others, and were now larger and more professional. Some of the staff felt there was not so much of the community aspect as previously, but that with the local opt-out they still provided a strong local service.

We decide to give Cork a miss. We had visited the ERI studios last time and had been told nothing had changed apart from the mixing desk. So we headed north-east to Tipperary home of Midwest Radio. Once again we had no address to go on so we headed for the former Tipperary Community Radio studios where we found TMR, which had been formed out of TCR after its closure in 1988. The atmosphere on TMR didn't seem to have changed much from the pirate days. The station has six full-time staff and about 15 part-time/voluntary staff. It covers the western half of Tipperary county.

Having spent an interesting hour chatting about old times and quaffing quantities of coffee, we left and headed for Clonmel and a second attempt at getting into Suirland Radio. Arriving at the studios we found what appeared to be an old bus in the car park. This turned out to be the station OB unit, festooned with aerials and fitted out with a makeshift studio in the style of the pirates. While looking around we were told that Suirland, which holds the south-east Tipperary franchise had taken over the adjoining station for north Tipperary, which had never opened and was planning to merge with TMR in the near future to form a county-wide station named Tipp FM. This was surprising as we had heard nothing of this at TMR, and on phoning them to check, neither had they.

Our final day in Ireland was spent driving back to Dublin via Carlow, home of Carlow Kildare Radio and visiting Radio Dublin, as described last issue, then out towards Dun Laoghaire listening to DLR (only carrier and occasional music) and down to Bray, to the former Bray Local Broadcasting, now Horizon Radio. The last time we visited BLB they were the model of a community radio station that government ministers used to

hold up as how things should be. Today the community aspect had all but disappeared. Talking to the staff, most of whom at been on BLB, the reasons were blamed on the method of licensing stations and the close proximity of the main Dublin stations who cover Horizon's patch with the result it is difficult to differentiate between them. The loss of the community side has also led to the creation of Dun Laoghaire Local Radio, a pirate set up in direct competition with Horizon, but with more local orientation.

From Bray down the coast to Wicklow and the studios of Easy 103, with some of the staff from former Wicklow station WLCB. By now it was evening, but on arriving at the studio we found the front door open and not a soul around. We eventually found somebody on the first floor and were shown around the studios. It was here that we heard about another side of the radio business: It seems that the company who originally got the licence was run by a couple of cowboys who borrowed money to set up the studios, took payments for advertising and then disappeared taking equipment and money with them. This left Easy 103 with more than a few problems, least of which was getting back the trust of the advertisers, and was probably one of the main reasons why the station has recently merged with Horizon to form East Coast Radio serving Wicklow.

In talking to the various staff from the former pirates, most seemed to think that things were generally better: there was no longer the uncertainty which previously surrounded the jobs, you were better better, and could even make a career out of it. On the other hand, most missed the family atmosphere of the old stations and felt programming had suffered as a result of being aimed at getting the maximum audience, stations sounded the same and played the same unimaginative pop music.

As for the future, the opinion was there would be more mergers, defeating the governments object of a local radio service. This together with the failure of the TV3 franchise, and more recently Century Radio made most people sure that a big shake up in the way local radio was financed was on the cards.

For ourselves the atmosphere had gone from the old days, and most of the stations were indistinguishable from each other; it was only the welcome of the staff that made the trip worthwhile.FRQ

Anorak Almanac

1961

January 31 The Cheeta II starts broadcasting on 89.55MHz.

February 6 The Bon Jour anchors off Orno. During a gale a loud crack from the mast announces that the insulators have broken.

February 7 Bon Jour limps into a shipyard in Stockholm and new insulators are fitted. During this time the transmitters are turned on for seconds at a time and a three hour night-time test is made, with the boat right in the middle of Stockholm harbour.

February 16 First ever pirate broadcast in English is made on 192 metres via radio Veronica from CNBC (Commercial Neutral Broadcasting Co). It was heard between Hull and Margate 05.00 and 07.00 daily.

March 2 Swedish government announces that any radio ship in Swedish waters, will have it's equipment confiscated.

March 9 Radio Nord opens for business at 06.00.

1962

March A mystery jammer blocks out Radio Nord every evening. The station complains to the Swedish Telegraph Broad. It mysteriously stops.

March 29 Swedish parliament introduce measures to outlaw offshore radio.

1965

January 13-14 Caroline North drifts in severe gales. Within days a new one and a half ton anchor and four and a half tons of cable are fitted. The Isle of Man Tourist board is given free advertising and the ship becomes a local attraction.

March 24 King Radio (formerly Radio Invicta) begins transmissions on 237 and 238 metres. They only attract an audience of about 20,000.

1967

February 22 Britain Radio closes before opening again under the name of Radio 355.

March 16 The government moves the second reading of the Marine Offences Act.

1968

March 2 A heavy Dutch tug anchors a mile away from Caroline North.

March 3 02.00; Dutch seaman from the tug board Caroline North, cut the anchor chain and tow her to Amsterdam. Later that morning around 05.00 another tug, the Titan pulls up alongside Caroline South. The Mi Amigo anchor chain is also cut and she is also towed to Amsterdam. The staff are paid and given plane tickets to England. It was the last they heard from the stations bosses.

1970

January 23 Radio North Sea test transmissions are heard on 6210KHz(49m) and 102MHz.

February 11 Firsts tests for RNI on medium wave begin on 1610KHz(186m).

February 28 Radio North Sea test with 20 hours of non-stop pop music on 186 metres and 102FM.

March 24 Mebo 2 anchors off Clacton.

March 27 RNI closes it's medium wave but continues on FM.

1983

January 1 London FM pirate LWR opens for business broadcasting weekends as London Weekend Radio.

February 28 Horizon Radio becomes a 24 hour station broadcasting soul music to London.

March The Ross Revenge is harboured in Santander in Spain, undergoing conversion to a radio ship. Reportedly owned by the Gotham Steamship Lines inc.

1985

January 6 At 20.00 Caroline closes as a force ten storm hits the North Sea. By 10.00 the Ross was drifting in heavy seas, an event which made *News at Ten*. Laser loses one of it's antenna masts and leaves the air.

January 11 Caroline returns to the air after being off for four days.

Anorak Almanac is compiled by Andy Walker

FRQ Database

The Quarterly Free Radio Directory

Short wave listing

All times shown are local to the UK
Add one hour for CET
When more than one frequency is used
the primary channel is shown in **bold**

When writing to stations return postage
should be included. International Reply
Coupons can be purchased and exchanged
at main Post Offices. In recent years it has
become fashionable to send one US dollar.

RADIO ACTION

NL, Irregular, 6205
PO Box 26, 7030 AA, Wehl, The
Netherlands

RADIO ACTIVE

Irregular, Relay via NIRS
14 Stone Row, Coleraine, County
Londonderry, Northern Ireland, BT52 1EP

RADIO ALPHA

NL, Irregular, 6315
PO Box 24, 7260 AA, Ruurlo, The
Netherlands

RADIO ANORAK

GB, Irregular, 6215, 6290, 6310, 7460
12 Rue du Pont, 25680 Rougemont, France

RADIO ANTENNAE WEST

Irregular, Relay via Star Club Radio
PO Box 220340, 5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

RADIO ARENA

NL, Irregular, 6207
PO Box 47, 7010 AA, Gaanderen, The
Netherlands

RADIO ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL

*NL, Irregular, Weekdays after 15.00 and
Sunday, 6555*
PO Box 40185, 6504 AD, Nijmegen, The
Netherlands

RADIO BENELUX

Irregular, 6203, 7480
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,

Germany

RADIO BLUEBIRD

NL, Irregular, 6212
PO Box 10, 9540 AA, Vlagtwedde, The
Netherlands

RADIO BONANZA

FL, Irregular, 6240
PO Box 82, SF-40101, Jyvaskla, Finland

RADIO BRIGITTE

*Irregular, 6216, 6223, 6253, 6308, 6572,
6575 7292, 7447, 7480, 7485, 7490, 7495*
Brigitte van Gelder, PO Box 10, 7954 ZG,
Rouveen, The Netherlands
*Do not write the station name on the
envelope*

BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL (BRI)

*GB, Second and Fourth Sunday, 6225,
6230, 6232, 6235, 7325*
32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
England, SP1 3NG
Second Sunday, oldies

10.00 Jayne; music from the mid-70s to
the mid-80s

10.45 Roger Davis; music from the 60s to
mid-70s plus the solid gold album
of the month and the spotlight
years

12.00 Top Tracks; listeners' top tens

12.45 Guest DJ *or*
Golden Years of Offshore Radio

13.15 Solid Gold Rock Sunday; classic
rock

14.00 Closedown

Fourth Sunday, CHR/Free radio information

10.00 Roger Davis; featuring oldies, chart
sounds, horoscope character
readings, offshore diary, classic
comedy sketch

12.00 Radio File with Steve West; round
up of the latest radio news

13.00 Jayne; The UK chart climbers plus
two Motown memories. Radio News
headlines at 13.30

14.00 Close

FRQ Database

RADIO CARRIER WAVE

Irregular, 6215, 6294, 6300, 6315
PO Box 2188, 3000 CD, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

CENTRE RADIO

GB, Irregular, 6251, Relay of FM station, see also SUPER STATION

RADIO CHARLENE

D, Irregular, 6205
PO Box 65027, 3002 DA, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

CLANDESTINE LISTENERS CLUB GERMANY (CLCG)

Irregular, Relay via WNKR
PO Box 540101, W-5600, Wuppertal 22, Germany

CLANDESTINE RADIO SOCIETY (CRS)

F, Irregular, 6527
PO Box 220340, W-5600, Wuppertal 22, Germany

RADIO CONFUSION

GB, Irregular, late-night Saturday, Sunday morning, 6233, 6235, 6255, 6290, 6302, 6308, 6400, 7864, 15730, Alternative
32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, SP1 3NG
See also Halloween Radio

RADIO COSTELLO

Irregular, 6215
Address unknown

DELTA RADIO (i)

D, Irregular, 6206, 6240, 6275
PO Box 41, 8080, AA Elburg, The Netherlands

RADIO DELTA (ii)

NL, Irregular, 6211, 6215
PO Box 65, 7260 AB, Ruurlo, The Netherlands

RADIO DUBLIN

IRL, Daily, 6910
Dublin 8, Ireland

RADIO DUTCHBOY

NL, Irregular, 7284, 7288
PO Box 13, 7710 AA, Nieuwleusen, The Netherlands

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL (RECC)

GB, Irregular, oldies, 6240, 6260, 6290

PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22, Germany

RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND

NL, Irregular, 6200, 6280, 6285, 6295, 9982, 11490
PO Box 536, 7900 AM, Hoogeveen, The Netherlands.

RADIO EQUINOX

Irregular, Relay via Radio Waves International, CRS
PO Box 130, 92504 Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France

EUROPEAN PIRATE RADIO

Irregular, Relay via NIRS
14 Stone Row, Coleraine, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland, BT52 1EP

RADIO EUROPE

Irregular, 7293, 7297, 9420
Davanzati 8, 20158, Milano, Italy

RADIO EXP

GB, Irregular, 6275, 6300
10 Bromyard Crescent, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, PO6 3SP

FALCON RADIO

GB, Irregular, 6820
PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France

RADIO FAX

IRL, Daily, 24 hours, 6205, 12255, Nighttime 3910 continuous loop tape
The Forge, Cranleigh, Surrey, England, GU6 7BG
Monday
Sparks; 90 minutes on science, technology and the media
Alternate Wednesdays
60s and 70s music *or*
Country with Tommy Murphy
Alternate Fridays
Rock with Jody, *or*
Vintage recordings and listeners letters with Trevor Brook
Sunday
Classic Gold with Paul Bentley
17.30-23.45 Reflections '92; Sponsored Religious programmes

FREE RADIO SERVICE HOLLAND (FRSH)

Irregular, Various relays
PO Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten, The Netherlands

FREESOUND RADIO

GB, Last Sunday, 12.00-15.00, 6200, 6210, 6220, 6266, 6300, 6558, 6593
PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil, Cedex, France

RADIO GEMINI

GB, Irregular, Comedy/CHR 6220, 6226, 6230, also as Relay via Jolly Roger Radio
PO Box 293, Merlin, Ontario, Canada,
NO3 1WO

RADIO GERMANY

D, Irregular, Relay via Radio Waves International
PO Box 100350, 7016 Gerlingen, Germany

RADIO GERONIMO

GB, Irregular, Bi-monthly, Rock, 6220, 6240, 6254
PO Box 220342, W-5600 Wuppertal 22, Germany

RADIO GLORIA INTERNATIONAL

GB, Irregular, 6210, 6255, 6285, 6315, 6550
23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh, Scotland,
EH12 5YR

RADIO GREAT PIDGEON (RADIO GROTE DUIF)

NL, Irregular, 6556,
PO Box 40185, 6504, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
See also Radio Atlantic

HALLOWEEN RADIO

GB, 31 October, 6255, 6300, one-off station from Radio Confusion.

RADIO HEGOLAND

Irregular, relay via Radio Nordlicht
PO Box 59, 7260AB, Ruurlo, The Netherlands

INTERNATIONAL RADIO RELAY SERVICE (IRRS)

GB, Irregular
PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France

RADIO JIMMY

NL, Irregular, 6200
Address unknown

JOLLY ROGER RADIO

IRL, Irregular, CHR/Easy listening 6209, 6230, 6239, 6308, 6625, 7374, 7425, 7440
PO Box 39, Waterford, Ireland

RADIO KARIBU

FIN, Irregular, 6307
PO Box 82, 40101, Jyväskylä, Finland

KCIA

NL, Irregular, 7591
PO Box 11175, 1001 GD, Amsterdam

KING RADIO

Irregular, Relay via Freesound Radio
PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil, Cedex, France

KNMS RADIO

Irregular, Various relays
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22, Germany

KRANKER RADIO

Irregular, 6230
PO Box 152242, Pensilvania, California USA

RADIO LIMIT INTERNATIONAL

Irregular, Relay via Starclub Radio
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22, Germany

LIVE WIRE RADIO

GB, Irregular, Rock, 6200, 6240, 6276, 6282, 6300, 6312, 6316, 6625, 7415 15050
c/o 30 Pinewood, Ballybrack, Dublin, Ireland

RADIO LOCAAL

NL, 6570, Irregular
c/o Current Pirate List, Kämnärsvägen 13D220, 22646, Lund, Sweden

RADIO LONDON

First and Last Sunday, 6231, 09.15-10.00 via Jolly Roger Radio from 15.00 via Radio Orion (First 6290) via Free Sound Radio (Last 6218)
PO Box 293, Merlin, Ontario, Canada,
NO3 1WO

RADIO MARABU

D, Irregular, Alternative, 6235, 6262, 6285, 6315, 7484, 11400, also as a Relay via Radio Stella and Radio Waves International
PO Box 220342, D-5600, Wuppertal 22, Germany or
PO Box 82, 40101 Jyväskylä, Finland

RADIO MAYDAY

Irregular, 7421
PO Box 82, 40101, Jyväskylä, Finland or

FRQ Database

PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil Malmaison,
Cedex, France or
PO Box 220342, 5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

RADIO MARTA

Relay via RWI (F)
PO Box 220342, 5600 Wuppertal 22,
Germany

RADIO MERCURY

NL, Irregular, 6220
PO Box 84, 3417 ZH, Montfort, The
Netherlands

RADIO METEOR

Fin, Irregular, 6258
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

RADIO MERLIN

GB, Irregular, CHR, 6240,
PO Box 293, Merlin, Ontario, Canada,
NO3 1WO

RADIO MI AMIGO

*GB, Irregular, oldies, Late-night Saturday
and Sunday, 6400, 7415, 7426*
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

MIDLANDS MUSIC RADIO

GB, Irregular, 6208, 6220, 6260
135 Barks Drive, Norton, Stoke, England,
ST6 8EX

RADIO MIRAGE

GB, Irregular, 6255, 6280, 6285, 7385
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

RADIO MONA LISA

NL, Irregular, 7285, 7290
PO Box 11, 7954 ZG, Rouveen, The
Netherlands

RADIO MONGOOSE

NL, Irregular, 7290
Address unknown

RADIO MUTINY

*GB, Irregular, 6210, 6223, 6255, 6315,
6300, 6535, 9352*
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

NORTHERN IRELAND SHORT WAVE RELAY SERVICE (NIRS)

GB, Irregular, 6242, 6262, 6273
14 Stone Row, Coleraine, County
Londonderry, Northern Ireland, BT52 1EP

NORDLICHT RADIO

*NL, Now closed, 6220, 6225, 6230, 6233,
6281, 6288, 6299, 6855*
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

RADIO NORTH SEA INTERNATIONAL (i)

*NL, Irregular, 6556, relay of Dutch satellite
service, See also Radio Atlantic and Great
Pidgeon*
PO Box 40185, 6504, Nijmegen,
The Netherlands

RADIO NORTH SEA INTERNATIONAL (iii)

NL, Irregular, 6275,
Amsterdam, full address unknown

RADIO ORANG UTAN

NL, Irregular, 6200, 6206, oldies
PO Box 114, 7040 AC s'Heerenburg, The
Netherlands

RADIO ORION

*GB, Sunday from 11.00, Rock, 6233, 6290,
6298, 25920*
6 Worcester Street, Wolverhampton, West
Midlands, England, WV2 4LD
First Sunday
DX programme with Mike Wilson

OZONE RADIO

IRL, Sunday, 6280
c/o Gary Lewis, 18 Shancastle Lawn,
Quarry Vale, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Ireland

RADIO PACMAN

6238, Irregular
PO Box 103, 8120 AC Olst, The
Netherlands

RADIO PAMELA

GB, Irregular, 6233, 6300, 6524,
PO Box 2425, 119 Anaheim, California
92814-2425, United States

PASSION RADIO

D, Irregular, 6234, 9985
Address unknown, previously Utrecht

PEACE IN ACTION

D, Irregular, 6316, 7385
PO Box, 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,

FRQ Database

Germany

RADIO PERFEKT

Relay via Radio Urang Otan, Radio Waves
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

PIRATE FREAKS BROADCASTING SERVICE (PFBS)

D, Irregular, Dance, 6220, 6257, 6315, 6284, 11421, 15050
PO Box 386, 5900 AJ, Venlo,
The Netherlands

RADIO PLUTO

NL, Irregular, 6220, 6239, 6293
PO Box 103, 8120 AC Olst, The
Netherlands

RADIO POGO 104

D, Irregular, 6235
PO Box 220340, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

POWER 48

GB, Irregular, 6299
80s rock and pop
Address unknown

RADIO RABBIT

Irregular, relay via Radio Waves International
PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil Malmaison,
Cedex, France

RAINBOW RADIO

D, Irregular, 6220
PO Box 202, 6440, Bebra, Germany

RADIO REFLEX

NL, Irregular, 6220, 6234
PO Box 59, 7260AB Ruurlo,
The Netherlands.

RADIO RICDICULOUS

Irregular, 6223, 6225, 6230
PO Box 1019, 2200 RA, Noordwyk, The
Netherlands

RADIO ROBIN

B, Irregular, 6205
PO Box 21, 7010 AA, Gaanderen, The
Netherlands

ROCKET 48

GB, UK Bank Holidays, Rock, 6220, 6240
PO Box 293, Merlin, Ontario, Canada,
NOP 1WO

ROMANTIC SPACE RADIO

Rus, Irregular, 6277
PO Box 55, Moscow, 119633, Russia
Do not send cash or IRCs as these are likely to be removed in transit

RADIO SANTANA

NL, Irregular, 6315
PO Box 46, 7160 AA Neede, The
Netherlands

RADIO SCHADUWJAGER

NL, Irregular, 6275
PO Box 578, 7900 AN, Hoogeveen, The
Netherlands

SOUTHERN MUSIC RADIO

Relay via Jolly Roger Radio, Radio Waves International,
PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil Malmaison,
Cedex, France

STAR CLUB RADIO

D, Irregular, 6225, 6230, 6238, 6280, 6282 6289, 6310
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

RADIO STARLINE

Irregular, 7450, 11400
PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,
Germany

RADIO STELLA INTERNATIONAL

IRL, Sunday 00.00-11.00, Oldies/DX news 6295, 7446, 9980, 11416
23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh, Scotland,
EH12 5YR

SÜD WEST RADIO

D, Irregular, 6275
PO Box 1243, 6685, Schiffweiler, Germany

SUPER STATION (SIERRA SIERRA)

GB, 6207, 6233, 6265, 6540
11 Belvoir Lodge, Whimsey Place, Carlton,
Notts, NG4 1DU

RADIO TELSTAR

Irregular, 6220, 6275
PO Box 59, 7260 AB, Ruurlo, The
Netherlands

RADIO TITANIC INTERNATIONAL

Irregular, 6285, 6316, 7423, 9985, 11421
Address unknown, formerly Utrecht

FRQ Database

RADIO TONAIR

NL, Irregular, 6207

PO Box 21, 7010 AA, Gaanderen, The Netherlands

TOTAL CONTROL RADIO

GB, Irregular, Dance, 6242, 6291

PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France

RADIO TOWER

NL, Irregular, 15050

Address unknown, formerly Utrecht

RADIO VANESSA

D, Irregular, 6275, 7400, 7495

PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22, Germany

RADIO VERGINIA

Irregular

PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France

VOICE OF FREE RADIO

Fin, Irregular, 6239

PO Box 220340, W-5600, Wuppertal 22, Germany

VOICE OF GERMANY

Irregular, Relay via Star Club Radio

PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22, Germany

VOICE OF LOVE

NL, Irregular, 6203, 6230

Address unknown

VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS

NL, Irregular, 6205, 6288

PO Box 669, 7900 AR, Hoogeveen, The Netherlands

RADIO WAVES INTERNATIONAL (RWI)

F, Every Sunday, 6229, 7440, 7450, 11400

PO Box 130, 92504, Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO (WMR)

GB, Irregular, CHR/Oldies/DX News, 1611 6240, 6285, 6290, 6298, 6300, 6305, 6317, 7446, 11415, 15043

23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH12 5YR

WNKR

GB, Sunday, 6275, 6315, 6400, 15044,

PO Box 220342, W-5600, Wuppertal 22,

Germany

10.00 Dave Martin

11.00 The Free Radio Show;
Vintage recordings with Andy Walker

12.00 Sam the Dog

First Sunday

11.00 International DX Report; Adrian Cooke

12.00 Sam the Dog

13.00 Uncle Nobby

Second Sunday

13.00 Terry Phillips; oldies

Third Sunday

13.00 Adrian Cooke; album tracking

Fourth Sunday

13.00 Terry Phillips; oldies

Fifth Sunday

13.00 Bob Jay

14.00 Closedown

RADIO WITHOUT BORDERS INTERNATIONAL

Rus, Irregular, 6277

PO Box 55, Moscow, 119633, Russia

Do not send cash or IRCs as these are likely to be removed in transit

WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON (WFRL)

GB, Final broadcast Easter 1992, 6275, 6300, 6400,

PO Box 220342, W-5600 Wuppertal 22, Germany

XMAS RADIO

NL, Irregular, 3884, 7558, 7590

PO Box 11175, 1001 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands

RADIO ZENITH

IRL, Irregular, 6220, 6235, 6305

BCM Box 558, London, England, WC1N 3XX

Daily Broadcasters

6205 Radio Fax (also 3910 night-time, 12255)

6910 Radio Dublin

Sunday

Regular broadcasters

Every Sunday

6205 Radio Fax (also 3910 night-time, 12255)

6280 Ozone Radio

6290 Radio Orion

6295 Radio Stella (also 7445, 9980, 11416)

6400 WNKR

6910 Radio Dublin

Second Sunday

6230 Britain Radio International

Fourth Sunday

6230 Britain Radio International

Last Sunday

6220 Freesound Radio

Frequency Watch

This section lists the main frequencies used by unlicensed broadcasters in Europe and is not exhaustive

3910

Radio Fax has introduced this 75 metre-band frequency to improve night-time reception to the United Kingdom and Ireland. The transmitter is only operated during the hours of darkness when reception on 6205 is at its poorest. No doubt to the delight of the Reflections sponsors.

6200

Radio Orang Utan continues to pop up irregularly on this channel, November 3 for example, decimating everything in sight with its high powered wide bandwidth transmissions. The main effect is to wipe out the 6205 transmissions of Radio Fax.

6205

Radio Fax continues with few problems to its seven-day service. The transmitter was off-air in late October during maintenance carried out by Jack Russell (Weekend Music Radio) and Bill Lewis (Live Wire

Radio). No on site maintenance is available, so the transmitter runs for the most part unattended. Despite the wide bandwidth taken up by Radio Fax the station continues to have the occasional problem with broadcasters who park themselves on adjacent frequencies.

6220

Radio Reflex fought the fight for Dutch free radio here on November 17 with a neat signal which was neither over modulated or distorted. It returned the following week ending with a QSO to Freesound Radio, who subsequently took over the frequency for its regular fourth Sunday broadcast.

6230

One has to admire the tolerance level of Britain Radio International, sticking to 6230 through hell, high water and other pirates. The November 10 transmission of Live Wire Radio on 6240 provided the latest problem, splatter damaging BRI's own solid signal.

6240

With two raids on former seven-day operator Radio Merlin 6240 has been opened up again. On November 2 to the returning Radio East Coast Commercial and the following week to Live Wire Radio. Merlin returned on December 1 using 120 watts with near perfect modulation. Aerial problems at the new site meant that regular transmissions did not commence until Monday December 23, in time to claim the frequency ahead of the Christmas rush. However the DTI visited a second time, on this occasion mounting an official raid.

6255

An increasingly popular channel used on November 10 by Radio Mutiny. On November 24 it was in use again by Radio Confusion. Neighbouring channel 6257 saw a test transmission on December 15 by PFBS moving from the morse inflicted 6315.

6275

After almost two years of being occupied weekly by WNKR 6275 has finally become vacant. On November 24 WNKR operated the channel in parallel with 6400 which

from January 5 became the regular frequency. A loop tape operated on 6275 to point listeners in the right direction.

6280

Ozone Radio continues here weekly now free of the occasional splatter caused by WNKR on 6275.

6295

Radio Stella achieved a small feat in early October with the commencement of four frequencies in parallel. 6292 moved down here to end the mutual interference caused to Radio Orion, who had used 6290 for many years. The other Stella frequencies are 7446, 9980 and 11416. The transmitters are co-sited with those of Radio Fax, resulting in the latter's transmissions being heard audibly in the background.

6305

Finally fell silent in early November with the widely anticipated failure of the Radio Harmony project. The station progressed little beyond the early test transmissions.

6400

This virtually clear channel was taken over by WNKR on January 5. Radio Mi Amigo and WFRL both having made other arrangements. On Christmas Day the channel was tried out by Radio Confusion.

9980

Radio Stella channel which offers possibly the best reception of the Scottish selection.

Pirate Chat

Bi-monthly News & Features

Short Wave, Medium Wave and FM

23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh,
Scotland, EH12 5YR

Sample copy Only £1.00

Infelines

AM/FM Newsline 0836 40450 (premium line)

Caroline Movement 0426 910390 (local call)

Official Caroline Infoline with Peter Moore 0839 669990 (premium line)

Peter Chicago Surgery 0836 404565 (premium line)

Short Wave Magazine Radioline 0898 654676 (premium line)

Premium line calls are charged at 36p per minute cheap rate, 48p per minute at all other times.

Famous last words

Adrian Cooke

Tuning into Radio Stella recently I found myself taking part in a strange experiment. AM Stereo on short wave has been tried before, but this was different. There were still two channels, but this was something new, one was a completely different station.

It was a dangerous idea, could the listener cope with so much new information. The gentle Scottish brogue of Jock Wilson combined with the slick presentation of Paul Bentley playing *Classic Gold* on Radio Fax.

The possibilities were endless, not only could Jock present us with recent short wave recordings, he could now play one of himself playing a recording of Jock Wilson on Radio Stella or RSI (sounds like a disease) as he now prefers to call the station.

The prospects are endless no longer need we endure one sided QSO conversations, we could now hear both at the same time, or course this would restrict the privacy of those taking part, but they could always use the phone like everyone else.

Forget Nicam digital stereo split the screen and fit in two channels.